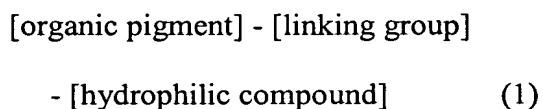


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image-recording, hydrophilic colorant, represented by the following formula (1):

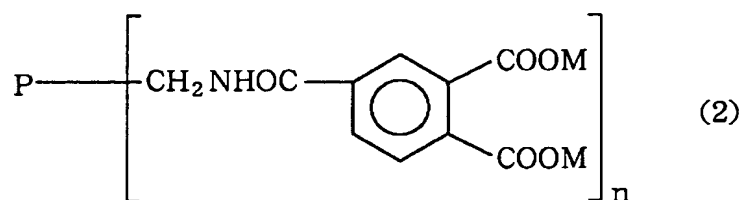


wherein said [organic pigment] is a hydrophobic pigment, having no hydrophilic group by itself, said [linking group] is a group linking said [organic pigment] and said [hydrophilic compound] with each other and blocking an effect of said [hydrophilic compound] on said [organic pigment], and said [hydrophilic compound] is an anionic, cationic and/or nonionic, hydrophilic compound.

Claim 2 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic pigment is selected from the group consisting of phthalocyanine, anthraquinone, perylene, perinone, dioxazine, quinacridone, diketopyrrolopyrrole, indigo-thioindigo, quinophthalone, isoindolinone, metal complex, azo, high-molecular azo, azomethine-containing azo, and azomethine pigments.

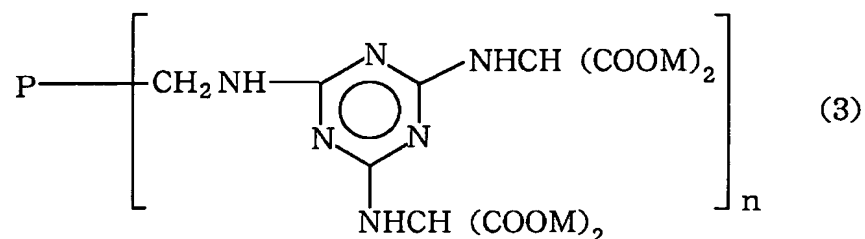
Claim 3 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, wherein said linking group is selected from the group consisting of an alkylene group, s-triazinyl group, s-triazinyl-2,4-diamino group, s-triazinyl-2,4-dioxy group, s-triazinyl-2-amino-4-oxy group, s-triazinyl-2,4-diaminoalkyl group, and s-triazinyl-2-aminoalkyl-4-oxy group.

Claim 4 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, which is represented by the following formula (2):



wherein P represents an organic pigment molecule, M represents a hydrogen atom, alkali metal, ammonium group, (lower alkyl)ammonium group or (lower alkanol)ammonium group, and n stands for 1 to 4.

Claim 5 (Original): The hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, which is represented by the following formula (3):



wherein P represents an organic pigment molecule, M represents a hydrogen atom, alkali metal, ammonium group, (lower alkyl)ammonium group or (lower alkanol)ammonium group, and n stands for 1 to 4.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image-recording, water-based coloring composition, comprising the hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1 and an aqueous medium.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An image-recording method, comprising forming an image with a composition, which comprises ~~using~~ the hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1 ~~or the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6~~.

Claim 8 (Original): An image-recorded medium obtained by the image-recording method according to claim 7.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An image-recording system, comprising the hydrophilic colorant according to claim 1, ~~or the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6~~ loaded as an image-recording material therein.

Claim 10 (Original): An image-recording system according to claim 9, which is an inkjet printer.

Claim 11 (New): An image-recording method, comprising forming an image with a composition, which comprises the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6.

Claim 12 (New): An image-recorded medium obtained by the image-recording method according to claim 11.

Claim 13 (New): An image-recording system, comprising the water-based coloring composition according to claim 6, loaded as an image-recording material therein.

Claim 14 (New): An image-recording system according to claim 13, which is an inkjet printer.